MONTEREY NEWS

February 2015

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The Town

By David Irland

Notes on Select Board meetings from January 5 through January 12.

Highway

Shawn Tryon, Director of Operations, appeared to discuss the repairs needed to the town's old Ford 550 truck (soon to be replaced) before it could continue plowing. An earlier estimate of $13,000 seemed high for the repairs. Mr. Tryon procured a second estimate in the $7,000 range for the same work, which was acceptable to the Board. Scott Jennsen, Select Board member, had suggested possibly buying the tools to do the work at the Highway Department, or renting a truck temporarily, or talking to the local people at Tryon Construction, who do all their own mechanical work. However, the lower estimate seemed within reason, and no objections were noted.

Winston Wilson, tree warden, and John Field, an independent tree surgeon, surveyed Route 23 for dead or dangerous trees and listed about seventeen that needed immediate cutting. They noted even fewer problems on Route 57. The Board and the tree warden talked about a five-year plan involving about ten days per year of tree cutting, which they felt would be an adequate amount of prevention. The cost looked like it would be approximately $20,000 per annum, which is close to what was spent in 2014.

Town Hall

Bethany Mielke, town treasurer, reported on her activities, mentioning primarily that the end-of-year tax forms were going out, W2s, etc., and she has received the new payroll tax software with the latest tax tables in it. She also reported that Berrinson & Bloom, an Easthampton, MA, law firm, had been successful in collecting tax money on a Monterey property that was in a tax title situation.

The Board then asked her if she could look into current interest rates and the town's Moody's rating (if it had one), as a way of preparing the Board with information pertaining to multiple loans and bonds the town was in the process of looking into.

>

Stephen Moore

That's Scott Amstead, Chris Tryon, and Del Martin laying down roof sheathing on the firehouse addition on a cold winter day. For more information on the firehouse renovation plans, see page 3.

Jamie's Court

Kelly Tryon, chair of the Parks Department, in what she jokingly hoped was her "final appearance," went over costs associated with the basketball court being built behind the town hall. The Parks Department had looked at landscaping as a way of providing a buffer between the court and the town hall parking but decided against it as being too high maintenance. Benches were also vetoed due to the limited amount of space. The ultimate solution will be a chain link fence from American Fence, who bid $4,995. The fence will ensure the safety of the children playing on the playground as well as serve as a protective barrier for cars and people in the parking lot. It will also protect the town's investment in the court.

Various other construction materials will total $2,200, including curb stops, to be installed by Tryon Construction, who are providing the labor *gratis*. The hope, said Ms. Tryon, is that the town will be "playing basketball by summer." The town may vote on a warrant item at the special town meeting in February to fully fund the balance needed to complete this project.

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Police Affairs

Chief Backhaus reported in February that there were "four to five" false alarms on Pixely Road due to accidental triggering of a residential security system.

A contractor in Monterey was caught cashing a customer's check on bank security tapes after having failed to deliver on the contracted-for services. He subsequently made good on the misappropriated money.

Rudy Gero, a part-time Monterey police officer, made a follow-up appearance before the board in an effort to demonstrate support for his various claims, including unfair distribution of rotation assignments to part-time officers. He brought four current and former members of the police force with him as witnesses to this particular practice. The discussion veered sharply toward accusations on Mr. Gero part that the Board had violated the open meeting law by allowing Chief Backhaus to speak to these issues without Mr. Gero's being present to provide a counterpoint.

Mr. Gero also presented one of his past performance reports to rebut Chief Backhaus's claim that he was "incompetent." Mr. Gero pointed to his "exceeds expectations" scores in every performance category.

Mr. Gero, responding to a complaint, explained that part of why he never qualified for firearms was that he wasn't called on the weekend when the classes were being held.

The board eventually conceded that having both parties present might have been more conducive to a continuing dialogue between the parties.

Wayne Burkhart, chair of the Select Board, assured Mr. Gero that he would be heard, and was being heard.

Mr. Gero left satisfied with the promise of rescheduling the ongoing debate, hoping to leave for Florida "with good feelings."

Southern Berkshire Regional School District

Representatives of the SBRSD School Committee appeared before the board for an informational meeting with two items on their agenda: engineering reports on the Monterey School's condition, and an upcoming special town meeting to approve funding for repair and renovation costs to the Mt. Everett school campus.

Monterey School— The members of the school committee were pleased at the "collegial" feelings from the Select Board, who had shown their willingness to be a part of the cooperative renovation effort as well as expressed support for keeping the Monterey School open. The school committee members were looking for ballpark ideas of what the town would be willing to spend on the school with the idea of matching those funds themselves. Kenn Basler, Select Board member, suggested using the winter to plan out the summer work as a way of avoiding a piecemeal approach. He also suggested staying sensitive to the scope of the work as a way of avoiding going over a threshold beyond which the work would be considered major renovation, with all the code-compliance that comes along with that, and possibly negative public perceptions. The Board

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ultimately stressed fixing the "curb appeal" of the school as a way of garnering town support for its continued usage, though the idea of perhaps selling it or repurposing it at some future date was floated as a means of recouping monies spent.

Mt. Everett Schools—The school committee members were investigating what the town would be willing to spend on the Sheffield campus as their part of the group effort to replace not only the boilers with "greener" (and, it is hoped, less costly) technology, but the failing roof as well. By far the most expensive item on the agenda is the heating plant, presently consisting of three boilers, one of which is broken and another of which is leaking. A detailed discussion took into consideration all the different forms of boiler fuel, including pellets, a (purported pellet shortage was contradicted by a well-informed school committee member), cordwood, and oil. Different weights of roofing membranes were considered, with an eye to a possible future solar installation. (See pages 4-5 for a report on the project by Monterey's school committee representative, Maria Rundle.)

The district is discussing a short-term $400,000 loan to keep operations running while the state agencies involved in the school renovation get up to speed, emphasizing that the loan money would be part of a future bond, not in addition to it.

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Lynn Webster

The Monterey School was excited to get a visit from Sergeant Johnson just before winter break. Johnson answered the children's questions about his job, and then he read many poems from one of his favorite poets—Shel Silverstein! How fortunate we are to have such talent and dedication to community in our local police force! Thanks, Sergeant Johnson!

Fire Company Renovation Progress

Despite subfreezing temperatures, members of the Monterey Fire Company managed to make significant headway in January on a 623-square-foot addition to the front of the firehouse. The addition is just the first of a multiphase building construction and renovation plan.

The addition will create much-needed office space and allow for reconfiguration of interior walls to create a classroom and to renovate the bathrooms and kitchen. Plans also call for adding three bays for small vehicles on the rear of the building, with a second story for training purposes. The entire building will also be re-sided.

Aside from a new metal roof installed three years ago, the firehouse has had no significant work done to it since its construction thirty-five years ago. In the meantime, the fire services have undergone considerable changes. Expanded state and federal mandates, including reporting procedures, have pushed the need for modern office space and computer equipment. Tactical and technological changes in firefighting and medical care have intensified certification requirements and the demand for classroom and practical training space.

The Fire Company responds to more than one hundred calls a year.

Since last fall, the members of the Monterey Fire Company have each been contributing their monthly training pay to support a $350,000 bank loan for the project. Funds raised through the Fire Company's annual appeal and through a $15,000 grant from the Salomon Family Foundation are also being used for the project. The Fire Company will ask residents for their continued financial support through its annual appeal letter, which will be mailed in February. The letter will contain an artist's rendering of the plans.

The Fire Company will hold an open house this spring to share more information on the project.

—Felix Carroll
Monterey Fire Company

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mt. Everett Schools
Roof and Boiler Project

I'm Maria Rundle, your Monterey School Committee representative to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. As I'm sure most of you know, the district is made up of five towns and we all work together to provide quality education for the students in our communities. And it's working! In 2013, *US News and World Report* awarded Mount Everett Regional High School a Silver Medal for excellence—the only one in Berkshire County. Also in 2013, our students ended up in a tie for first place on the state tenth-grade English Language Arts (MCAS) test. And the high school robotics team has won the state championship for two years running now.

As our communities work together to support our students, we are looking for ways to contain the capital costs associated with maintaining our schools. Last year the school committee asked our administrators to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) several projects for their consideration, hoping they would partner with us to provide for the capital needs of all of our schools. The MSBA collaborates with school districts to partially fund major capital projects that would be a burden to any district without some state aid.

This past June, after declining our applications (one was submitted for each school in the district), their Board of Directors voted to invite the SBRSD into the Accelerated Repair Program to provide assistance to us on a roof and boilers replacement project for the Sheffield campus. After visiting the school and assessing the need, they offered to reimburse the district 39.21% of the cost of a new roof and new boilers. The School Committee was very excited and started meeting with some members of the Select Boards and Finance committees of all five towns to discuss this project. We hosted several in-depth informational meetings and also visited the Select Boards in each town to nail down the particulars of this project. We all learned a lot about roof membranes, oil boiler vs. pellet boiler vs. chip boiler systems, and CO_2 emissions along the way.

Roof Replacement

The Sheffield campus houses the district's administrative offices, pre-k program, Undermountain Elementary school, and Mt. Everett Regional, a combined middle and high school. The 180,000-square-foot roof of this building is twenty-three years old and thirteen years past its warranty. Multiple engineering studies have recommended replacing the roof, which is losing its integrity. Test cuts indicate that the insulation is wet, and there are leaks into the building that require a call to go out over the intercom for strategic bucket placement whenever it rains. Allowing more time to go by before dealing with this roof is not recommended. A new roof will also result in a 20% improvement of building energy performance and come with a twenty-five-year warranty. The scope of construction will include replacing the roof membrane, insulation, flashing, skylights, and other materials.

Boiler Replacement

In addition to the grant from MSBA for 39.21% of the cost of this project, SBRSD was also awarded a $360,000 grant from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to convert the oil heating system in the Sheffield campus to a highly efficient biomass system. This investment will save at least an estimated $46,000 annually by using a cheaper and less polluting fuel source. The district can also expect to earn $40-50,000 annually by selling alternative energy credits to utility markets, thanks to a new state law passed just last month.

Currently the building has three oil boilers. They are all twenty-three years old, original to the building, and beyond their useful life. One is completely offline and lying in pieces on the basement floor. The other two are leaking, and we are hopeful that they will make it through the rest of this cold winter. Multiple engineering reports confirm that all three boilers must be replaced immediately. Using the DOER grant and support from the MSBA, the District will replace the three boilers with two biomass boilers fueled by wood pellets and one oil boiler. These boilers have an estimated twenty-five-year life span.

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Project Finances

Even with financial support from the MSBA and the DOER grant, this project will need the support of the five member towns to proceed. The MSBA requires the district to secure funding for the project within ninety days of its vote of approval (which took place on January 14). For the district to appropriate these funds, member towns must approve a bond for the entire cost of the project, including the money pledged by the state. The total project cost is $7,741,013. That puts the district's portion of the project at $4,637,856. (This represents a worst-case scenario and includes a 10 % contingency, should additional work become necessary as the project proceeds.) The district will be financing only what is actually needed and the portion not covered by grants. The first bond payment will be due in fiscal year 2017. For Monterey the first bond payment is projected to be $45,895 on a twenty-year bond, which will decrease every subsequent year. This is just a projection. The actual figure will be determined by state formula assessments for the years in which the bond is being paid out and on the interest rate at the time when the bond is taken out.

The roof needs to be replaced. The boilers are on their last legs. Right now we can get help from the state to pay for this project, but that offer is not indefinite. If we wait, we will lose nearly 3 million dollars in grant money, but we will still need to do the project anyway. The School Committee would like to take advantage of the MSBA's partnership and get to work over the summer while the building is not in use. Most importantly, we also want to bring members of our communities into conversation with us over this project. An informational packet describing the details of the project is available at town hall, and the documents related to this project are all posted on sbrsd.org.

Please join us for an informational meeting at the Monterey Library on February 21, at 10 a.m. The Special Town Meeting to vote on the bond is on February 26, at 7 p.m., at the firehouse. You are also welcome to call or email me with your questions—I'm happy for the chance to get to know my neighbors better. I hope we have your support.

—Maria Rundle
mariarundle@gmail.com
528-4963

Emily Paskus

Easy Ridin' Papas Concert
February 28

The Easy Ridin' Papas will be performing at the Monterey Meeting House on Saturday, February 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The duo, consisting of Adam Brown (guitar) and Will Conklin (trumpet, cornet), plays a wide variety of depression-era blues, jazz, western swing, and gospel tunes. This "cabin fever reliever" concert is free to the public thanks to support from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Town of Monterey. Light refreshments will be provided, and all ages are welcome.

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Conservation Commission
Important Steps for Your Project

In the January edition of the *Monterey News*, the Monterey Conservation Commission (Commission) gave an general overview of its history, jurisdiction, and regulatory responsibilities for property owners as they plan projects that may be located near wetlands or above 1,500 feet of elevation or steep slopes occurring at 15% grade or greater, as shown within the mapped scenic mountain region of the town. This article will focus more specifically on the background and approval requirements for projects regulated under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (Act).

The state passed the Wetlands Protection Act in 1963 and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wrote the accompanying regulations shortly thereafter. Subsequently, conservation commissions were given responsibility in 1972 for administrating the Act at the local level of government. The regulations are very detailed and extensive in scope ,so the following paragraphs will only act as a summary of them. It should be said that the state wetland regulations are not intended to prohibit projects but are intended to protect certain "resource areas" and the plant and animal habitats within them. These resource areas include: any bank or freshwater wetland bordering on any creek, river, stream, swamp, pond, or lake, as well as land under any of the water bodies listed above. (The Act also regulates wetlands along coastal areas such as salt marshes, beaches, dunes, and flats, but these are not pertinent to Monterey.)

Projects that may impact these resource areas include, but may not be limited to, the construction of a new house, additions, renovations, septic systems, driveways, or drilling of water wells. Other projects might focus on tree and/or brush removal, walkways, paths, bridges, decks, or dock work. If these or related projects take place within one hundred feet of a wetland resource area or within two hundred feet of a river or perennial stream (the riverfront area), approval of your project must be obtained from the Commission. The wetland setback distance of one hundred feet is referred to as a "buffer zone" and further helps to define the jurisdiction of the Commission based on certain characteristics, including soil saturation during the growing season, wetland vegetation, and certain soil conditions.

If you have a specific project in mind near a wetland, lake, pond, river, or stream and you are not sure if it requires a formal filing with the Commission, then the question is: What do you do next? To help you determine if your project falls under the jurisdiction of the Commission and is regulated, you should contact the Commission at our town hall. After hearing your project idea, the Commission may require that you initially complete and file what is referred to as a Form 1 or a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA). In terms of the level of difficulty to complete, the RDA is relatively easy and comes with instructions for its completion. However, certain sections of the RDA may require the assistance of an experienced professional such as an architect, engineer, environmental scientist, or geologist. Again, a conceptual discussion of your project before the Commission may help to avoid any time delays caused by the lack of sufficient information when submitting the RDA.

After the RDA is submitted by the applicant, the Commission, or a Commission member, will schedule a visit to your site prior to acting on your application at a scheduled public hearing. If the Commission rules that the project will not alter the resource, then the project may move forward. In some cases, the Commission may issue project approval with conditions. The RDA is also filed with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). However, if the Commission rules that the resource will be altered by the

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project, then the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI) with both the Commission and the state DEP will be required.

The Notice of Intent is a more extensive document, known as Form 3. Unlike the RDA filing, the NOI may require a more detailed project description, a site plan, wetland delineations, sanitary compliance, mathematical calculations, and must meet certain performance standards that are best provided with the help of an engineer, architect, environmental scientist, or geologist. In fact, the engineer or architect may act as the agent for the property owner when submitting the NOI to the Commission and appear before it at the public meeting. Since the NOI is also filed with the state DEP, the state will review and issue a state file number for the project. As with the RDA process, the NOI filing by the applicant and/or agent will be followed by a Commission site visit prior to the review of the project at a subsequent public hearing. Unlike the RDA filing, there are filing fees required for the NOI.

At the public hearing, the NOI is presented to the Commission by the applicant and voted on by the Commission. They may issue an approval called an Order of Conditions which is essentially a permit for the project. This order may contain further requirements to mitigate the environmental impact of the project. After the Commission issues the order, there are two things that may happen. First, an appeal period of ten days is open for the public to object to its issuance. Those who may object may include an abutter, an aggrieved party, ten citizens, or even the state DEP. Second, if there are no appeals, then monitoring of the project and compliance during inspections by the Commission will lead to the final step. Alternatively, the Commission may deny approval of the project NOI on two grounds, namely, for lack of sufficient information or for failure to meet the state established performance standards. At the denial stage, the applicant may appeal to the state DEP to overturn the denial of the Commission.

When the project is completed, the applicant is required to file a Certificate of Compliance with the Commission. The Certificate may be either denied or accepted by the Commission, or state DEP, and may also include such conditions as on going maintenance or monitoring. Also, if the Commission finds that the project was completed in such a way that the Wetlands Protection Act was violated, then certain enforcement options are available to the Commission, including civil and criminal actions.

Suffice it the say that the Wetlands Protection Act is both a worthwhile and an important tool of government to protect a critical part of our environment. The next article will focus on projects regulated under the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act. In the meantime, we hope that this article is helpful. Please don't hesitate to contact the Commission with any questions about this article at: admin@montereyma.gov.

—Conservation Commission

Monterey Library
Building Needs Progress

Thank you to the 38 people who attended our forum and the 157 people who responded to our survey. We feel we have some good data to analyze about what the Town of Monterey expects out of the library building. Libraries have changed over the years, and we have tried new ways we serve this town, but there is only so much we can do without some serious design work.

Our Building Needs Committee has met several times, held the forum, and put the survey out. Now we'll analyze data, try to estimate where the trends are going in library service, and combine those into a document that we can show an architect who will be paid for out of the grant. About eighteen months from now, we should have some ideas on how to make the Monterey Library serve our whole community in all the ways it should. We promise there will be on the plan an accessible bathroom with hot water!

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

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Who's Who
Mark Little

Mark knows very well what he's doing.

Watch him and you might think this isn't so remarkable. As assistant manager of the Farm Team at Gould Farm, he's often performing tasks that aren't difficult to figure out. He tends to the cows, the pigs, the chickens, and the machinery. He's often rounding up runaway cows, repairing the chicken coop, and tinkering with engines.

As for now, this Friday morning that we'd set aside for our conversation, he was hanging his laundry to dry in the living room by the fire, as usual: Friday morning is his time for domestic chores. He was also brewing coffee for us to share. Such straightforward tasks: what's to know?

If his home is homey (which it is) then it's largely because of his tirelessness. He's always tinkering, or overhauling. He admits that things are a little disheveled. He had to bring a lot of stuff in from the mudroom because of the wet and cold, so, for example, the pictures that he can usually put his hands right on are out of order and tougher to find. "I have a heavy nesting instinct," he says, smiling. (He smiles a lot.)

Of course, this small cabin would be cozy no matter what—its one of the staff houses at Gould Farm. Outside, its clapboards are brown, comfortable in this wooded environment. Inside, its walls are wood-paneled; books that span from the "how-to" to the "why?" crowd the shelves custom built to fit; and a stone hearth

Maria Rundle

serves as the heart of the house. Worn and well cared for, it draws you in. "I hit the housing jackpot," Mark, smiling, said several times.

Mark Little was born in New Jersey in 1984, the older of two sons; but his family moved away to Australia when he was three years old. His father's work brought them to the East Coast there, south of Sydney. Of that year, he remembers not a lot, but surfboards everywhere: everyone, it seemed, surfed.

When they all moved back to the US it was back to New Jersey until Mark was eight and then to Connecticut, outside of Hartford, where Mark spent his middle childhood, until high school, when he "went away," as many of his friends did.

He attended Choate Rosemary Hall, where his grandfather had also matriculated. It was a mixed experience, those four years. On the one hand, the academic rigor suited Mark well. Not one to slide, Mark considers everything deeply, has a probing mind. But the world was broadening before him and his awareness of it was unbound: his parents and family had always provided a framework for taking things in and making sense of it all. Without these, Mark was dislocated and disoriented.

Knowing this is largely hindsight, though. At the time, Mark was masterful at making it look as if all was well. But an increasingly severe depression had begun to settle in, even disrupting his senior year.

He did graduate, but then he decided to take a year before going to college.

He had dreamed big about how he would spend it. But he ended up at home, nesting, in fact, as he would come to see as characteristic. That year, his grandmother died and left each of her grandchildren $10,000. This Mark used to make the most inspired and intricate tree house you can imagine. Set up among the trees of his childhood backyard, it had doors, cast-off custom windows, insulation, décor; it had a porch, two stories, books, and bed sheets. His mother considered it at the time the best therapy that $10,000 could possibly buy.

At the end of that year and that project,

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Mark felt ready for college. So he enrolled at Middlebury College in Vermont, which he remembers with fondness, even if with some regret that he wasn't as engaged as he now wishes he'd have been. In fact, his time as a student was broken up with stints beyond the college campus.

He did some private gardening in and around Middlebury, the town. He spent one summer in Oregon helping out a friend whose C.S.A. grew in membership far beyond what it was growing in produce.

He apprenticed himself to some mushers in Maine, dogsledders whom Mark says are the toughest people he's ever known. Their having to tolerate harsh weather is an obvious sign of this, but their having to manage a team of dogs is a subtler thing—yet no less crucial. These are big, strong dogs with temperaments of all sorts. To break up a fight among creatures like these requires, quite literally, thick skin.

Mark came to Gould Farm as a guest in 2007. His parents had learned of it in their concern for Mark's well-being and their research for just the right place. Gould Farm, it turns out, was just the right place—with its own heavy nesting instincts, its hard work and task-orientation, and its open invitation to deep contemplation on your own and in community. It's a place for discovering just exactly what you're doing—the what and how and why of it, where the "why" of things deepens the "what" and the "what" saves you from getting lost amidst the "why." It's a place where smart people bring their intelligence to work and community, and whereby they all together might be made well and whole.

Mark stayed as a guest on the campus for eleven months. Then he moved in with Bob and Gail Heath on Main Road in town. Having met Bob during Bob's regular and frequent volunteer work at the Farm, Mark came to embrace Bob as a father, and Bob (and Gail) received him like a son. Bob became the affectionate mentor Mark so often looked for, and Mark became a son to Bob, even named so in Bob's 2011 obituary following his terminal battle with congestive heart disease and COPD. (As for now, Mark stops by Gail's every few days, their two families spend holidays together, and he tears up at the memory of that terrible spring when Kristine [Gail and Bob's daughter] died, then Gail's father died, and then at last Bob died.)

Stephen Moore

As the firehouse renovation is getting underway, the old firehouse across from New Marlboro Road got a thorough exterior rehabilitation as well.

Later in 2011, Mark began to think about returning to college, this time to graduate. He needed just a few more credits. So, in the hope of completion, he took a class at Berkshire Community College, and, finding it manageable, even engaging, he returned then to Middlebury. He took an intensive course in January, during their "J-Term," a "great course," he declared it, on Aldo Leopold; and during spring 2012 he completed his final three credits, earning a degree in human ecology. He appreciated the equal parts hard sciences and humanism, and he enjoyed his once-again full engagement with academic rigor and intellectual curiosity.

Now Mark is back in Monterey, back at Gould Farm. On staff, he brings his deep understanding to his daily work. He knows that now his work is to clear space for others' healing, as was done for him. He knows he's to help guests stay on task while also yielding to their larger work of recovery. He knows he's to keep the cows in their pens, the chickens in their coop, and his own wellness and wholeness available to the whole community so others might be likewise healed.

It's an art, knowing when and how much of yourself to disclose, knowing also when to hold back and to give way. It takes mind and heart, understanding and imagination. Perhaps it also takes acquaintance with the void. But it's best if that acquaintance is traded in for a full embrace of hope, an opening up to what possibility life presents.

Mark, hanging laundry in his living room by the fire, knows all this. I knew it too, but it's always nice to be reminded.

—Liz Goodman

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Knox Gallery
February–March exhibit

The Magical Ravine off Wallace Hall Road: Watercolors by Alan Roland opens at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, on Friday, February 6, with a reception the next evening, February 7, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Following in the footsteps of his father, a recognized watercolorist, Roland began art classes as a small boy and has been painting ever since. He has studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology and with Clifton Karhu in Kyoto, Japan. His etchings, paintings, and drawings have been exhibited in numerous national juried shows.

While continuing his art, exploring numerous mediums, Roland took a different professional path: he became a psychologist and psychoanalyst and has written three books on the psychology of Asians and another on drama, the artist, and the creative process.

The exhibit focuses on watercolors of a particular location in Monterey where Roland, a part-time resident, has frequently painted for over twenty-five years. He reports being drawn to the dramatic and constantly shifting sunlight and shadows that provide varied perspectives on the massive rocks, trees, and swirling waters and ponds of the ravine. Roland observes, "It is as if a master lighting designer is frequently changing the lighting effects with invisible switches." Much as haystacks spurred Monet to capture the vastly different light and color effects that he observed, the ravine seems to supply Roland with endless subject matter and inspiration.

Spring Melt *by Alan Roland. (Photos courtesy of the artist.)*

"Self Portrait"

The exhibit continues through March 21 and can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

ॐ

Adult Book Group

Our next book is *Time Was Soft There: A Paris Sojourn at Shakespeare & Co.* by Jeremy Mercer, to be discussed on February 23. I think this book is a little wacky, so I hope everyone has a good time reading it. Deborah Mielke is joining our group this month, and newcomers are always welcome.

For March, we will be reading *Dear Committee Members, A novel* by Julie Schumacher. Enjoy the winter snows with a good book.

—Ann Canning

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A Promising Winter Season

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They share their time and talents without any compensation, so it's crucial to acknowledge their contributions and let them know they are valued. Volunteers are not the same as employees. They can choose to stay or walk away at any time without any real loss to themselves, and that's one reason why it's so important to show our appreciation. So we wish to extend a "thank you!" to all our volunteers, especially including:

- Tom Sawyer: Tom helps with plumbing at the skating rink, and helps make and maintain ice conditions.
- Chuck Wyman: His sawdust helps build layers of ice quickly. Check out Chuck's sawmill for native lumber and millwork.
- Mark Makuc: Mark deserves many thanks as he has spent countless hours preparing the skating rink and layering the ice at all hours of the day.
- Steve Graves: Steve is our hockey guru! Steve spends early mornings and evenings making ice while also organizing adult hockey pick-up games.

The Parks Department would also like to recognize the many other volunteers who help with normal ice maintenance by shoveling and making ice throughout the season. It is these volunteers whose presence at the skating rink brings our winter season to life! Thank you!

—Kelly Tryon, Chair
Parks Department

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.

Adult hockey:

Tuesday and Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9.

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.

All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink

Geoff Bell-Devaney

The Monterey Adult Hockey season started January 2, thanks to a sudden burst of cold weather and the efforts of volunteer ice makers at the Monterey rink located behind the fire station. Adult hockey is informal, co-ed, soft puck, non-contact fun for players of all levels. There is no charge to play, and new players are welcome any time. Free skates and sticks are available at the rink. The season runs through early March, weather permitting.

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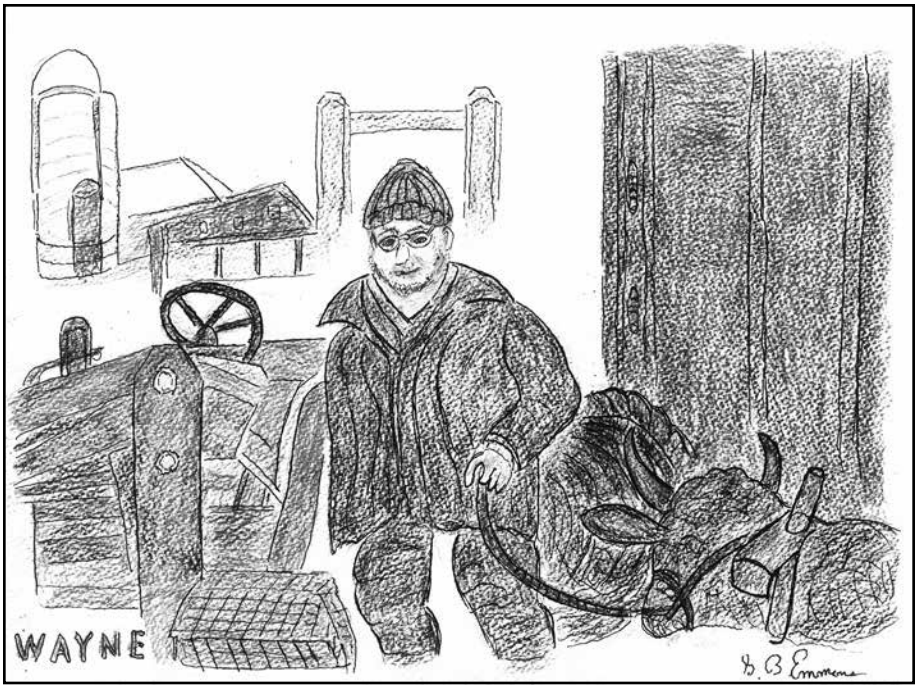
Wayne Burkhart
Farm Manager at Gould Farm



Wayne and Donna Burkhart came to Monterey to work at Gould Farm in 1984, both having just graduated from Michigan State University with graduate degrees (Wayne with an M.S. in Resource Development and Donna with an M.A. in English). Gould Farm is the first residential therapeutic community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental illness move toward recovery, health, and greater independence through community living, meaningful work, and individual clinical care.

As farm manager, Wayne is responsible for the farm team program and Donna is director of admissions and client services for residents of the program who are referred to as "guests." Wayne supervises guests as they begin each morning with a meeting at the dairy barn to discuss the tasks and chores that need doing. Each guest helps feed livestock, milk the cows, make cheese, maintain equipment, and gather eggs. Assistant farm manager Mark Little and work team leader Lisa Dachinger assist Wayne. (See Liz Goodman's "Who's Who" profile of Mark on pages 8-9.)

Wayne's team is similar to other Gould Farm work teams such as the Roadside Cafe, Harvest Barn, Kitchen, Forestry and Grounds, Maintenance, and Garden teams. Gould Farm covers a total of seven hundred acres, some one hundred acres of which are actively maintained as farmland and vegetable gardens. Wayne has worked hard over the years to reclaim land for productive pastures that are plowed, planted, cultivated, and harvested. The fields are where passing visitors most often see Wayne, Mark, and Lisa. We are fortunate to have an agricultural presence of this scope here in Monterey.

Wayne and Donna, married for forty-six years, share a Mennonite family heritage that fits well with the Gould Farm mission, and they value the wonderful vitality of the local Monterey United Church of Christ. The cornerstones of their faith are healing, hope, pacifism, sharing, and community accountability to one another. Before coming to Gould Farm, Wayne and Donna had spent four years with their two sons serving in Zaire (now Congo) in Africa through the Mennonite Central Committee. Wayne was key to having the Mennonite Disaster Service come to "raise" the new barn on the hill at Gould Farm when the tornado of 1995 razed the old sheep barn and laid it out flat on the softball field.

Wayne has the soul of a poet and is always ready to recite long passages from memory in his deep, resonant voice. Wayne is also a pilot and flies back to his small hometown of Brutus, Michigan, or to Nova Scotia to visit his son Shaylan,

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daughter-in-law Vanessa, and grandson, Wyn. Wayne is also active in Monterey town government and is in his third term on the Monterey Select Board, which he currently chairs.

Recently Wayne and Mark led the way in winning a substantial grant from the state to replace the old farm furnace with a new biomass heating system. Wayne is a big believer in "green" energy, putting his own farm on a biomass system as well with a wood-chip-burning boiler. This new system will not only decrease harmful emissions but will also allow the hard-working farmers to sleep through the night without having to wake to feed the furnace. Sustainable farming practices and a devotion to clean energy makes Wayne a good Berkshire neighbor.

Will and Agnes Gould founded Gould Farm over a hundred years ago with the understanding that working to support your community can be a therapeutic experience. Guests of the farm are welcomed into a productive, kind community that helps people struggling with vulnerabilities to find a place of belonging as they work toward recovery. As spring approaches, look for Wayne along Curtis and Gould Roads—he will soon be back out in the fields, even though the tractor long ago replaced the horses and oxen. Gould Farm will once again be sowing therapeutic seeds for another annual Harvest of Hope.

—George Emmons

On Gould Farm

When asked to write a piece on Gould Farm, my initial reaction was, how can I write anything about Gould Farm, when I have rejected the majority of what it's had to offer? But then I realize that is my illness talking, and I find that I have indeed acquired a great deal from my time at this singularly transformative place.

Gould Farm is not only a place to receive treatment for a psychiatric disorder, it is a safe haven to find one's strengths, as well as weaknesses, and to adjust oneself accordingly. I myself always wanted to be a writer. However, in the past, when I wasn't writing I was worrying about my status as a writer. At Gould Farm, I have other responsibilities. I am a part of the bakery team. I have to make bread and yogurt so that the other guests on the farm can be fed. And it is not so simple as keeping oneself busy. It is a means of grounding oneself in the reality that we are all part of a broader community, that we can actually support not only ourselves but each other.

If anything, Gould Farm is more of a challenge than a retreat. Living in a small, tightly knit community is a difficult thing. It is inevitable that conflict will arise. But, with the support of the counselors and other guests, almost all of the conflicts can be resolved without the need for drastic measures.

One of the most influential aspects of the farm is the quality of the people that are here. Yes, most of us suffer from a mental illness, but that does not take away from the fact that we are strong, highly capable, and incredibly diverse. Any given moment you can find someone displaying something extraordinary about themselves, whether it be talented musician playing the piano, someone inventing brilliant recipes in the kitchen, or someone simply telling a great joke. This is a lively place, and everyone, no matter how shy or reserved, leaves a mark here.

Oftentimes, since I've been at Gould Farm, I've asked myself, what's next? The answer to this question, I find, though it is never perfectly clear, is narrowed down for me. But no matter what I decide to do, I know I will always have the help and support of my Gould Farm family. By coming here, I entered into a pact with the Gould Farm family, with the intention to learn and become a better person. I have indeed gained a great deal from this place. With everything I learn, the disease loses some of its power over me, and for that I am grateful.

—Daniel Senser

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January 2015 Issue

I have just picked up and read the January 2015 issue. I could not stop myself from making a few comments on the article "Looking Back Twenty Years." I think I must be a reader of over twenty years—I lose track. So many issues of A.O. Howell's wonderful poetry along with David P. McAllester's. And of course the nature musings of Bonner McAllester. Where else do we have observant behavior of animals, descriptions of plants, etc.? But more than academic descriptions, we get ethical considerations. See the end of the piece on Lukey (Bonner's cat) and the prey in January 2015. To many more years of Bonner's writing! Her father would be proud of her. And to the continuation of a fine town magazine.

Sincerely,

—Ruth Rosenblatt, a reader

Dangers of Smart Meters

After reading the *Monterey News* last month about how disgruntled many of us are with the bully tactics of National Grid, here is a win/win for all residents.

Demand the removal of your smart meter! This is your right as a consumer. The smart meters (digital face or analog with wireless antennas) have now been associated with many negative and dangerous health effects. Several residents have already demanded the removal of the wireless device and have asked to have it replaced with the non-wireless meters we once had, requiring a monthly read out. National Grid promised a savings but instead has retaliated by raising prices over 50%. There should not be any additional charge for reading meters, as that was a provision the company made all along until the advent of the smart meter. Now, instead of a savings, we are being charged more monthly costs, whether we have a smart meter or not. Even if we have our smart meters replaced with analog meters, we are still being exposed to the residual effect of our neighbors' meters. Ultimately, the actions of National Grid and the MADPU are illegal and harmful by their actions in rolling out and using technology that harms the public.

As a community we can give National Grid a loud message that we will not tolerate their deceptive practices. Join the growing number of residents, your neighbors, and friends nationwide who have had their wireless meters removed and replaced with analog meters. Many of these individuals once had health consequences, such as heart palpitations, dizziness, sleeplessness, and irritability—all symptoms that disappeared when the smart meters were removed and replaced with non-wireless meters. You can protect yourself and give National Grid the message that you are not just going to sit back and let them make all of your decisions for you, and you are certainly not going to entrust them to look out for your well-being. They have done nothing to earn our blind trust.

To learn more when considering removal of the smart or wireless meter on your home go to haltmasmartmeters.org

If you would like assistance in the removal of your (not so) smart meter you can contact me at the email below.

—Sandra Chianfoni
Globalrfrdefenseteam@verizon.net

Monterey Coffee Club

2014 Contributions

Dick Tryon, treasurer for the Coffee Club, asked if the *Monterey News* could publish the financial report for 2014.

Each of the attendees pays two dollars a day, and over the days, and weeks, and months, this adds up. By the end of 2014 they'd spent over five hundred dollars for coffee supplies and miscellaneous expenses, and more than three hundred dollars on the *Berkshire Eagle*, presumably so they could find something to talk about in the slow moments, but they're still awash with money.

And so they make contributions. They contributed almost sixteen hundred dollars to the church for providing them shelter, and more than half-a-thousand dollars to other organizations: Volunteers in Medicine, the Berkshire Humane Society, Friends of Lake Garfield, as well as paying for Easter eggs, and even flowers for funerals, folks not feeling so well, and so on.

So, if you're passing through the village and find yourself pausing for a moment as one of the coffee club members is crossing the road to get to the other side, you can think about the good they do for other people over their daily coffee and chat.

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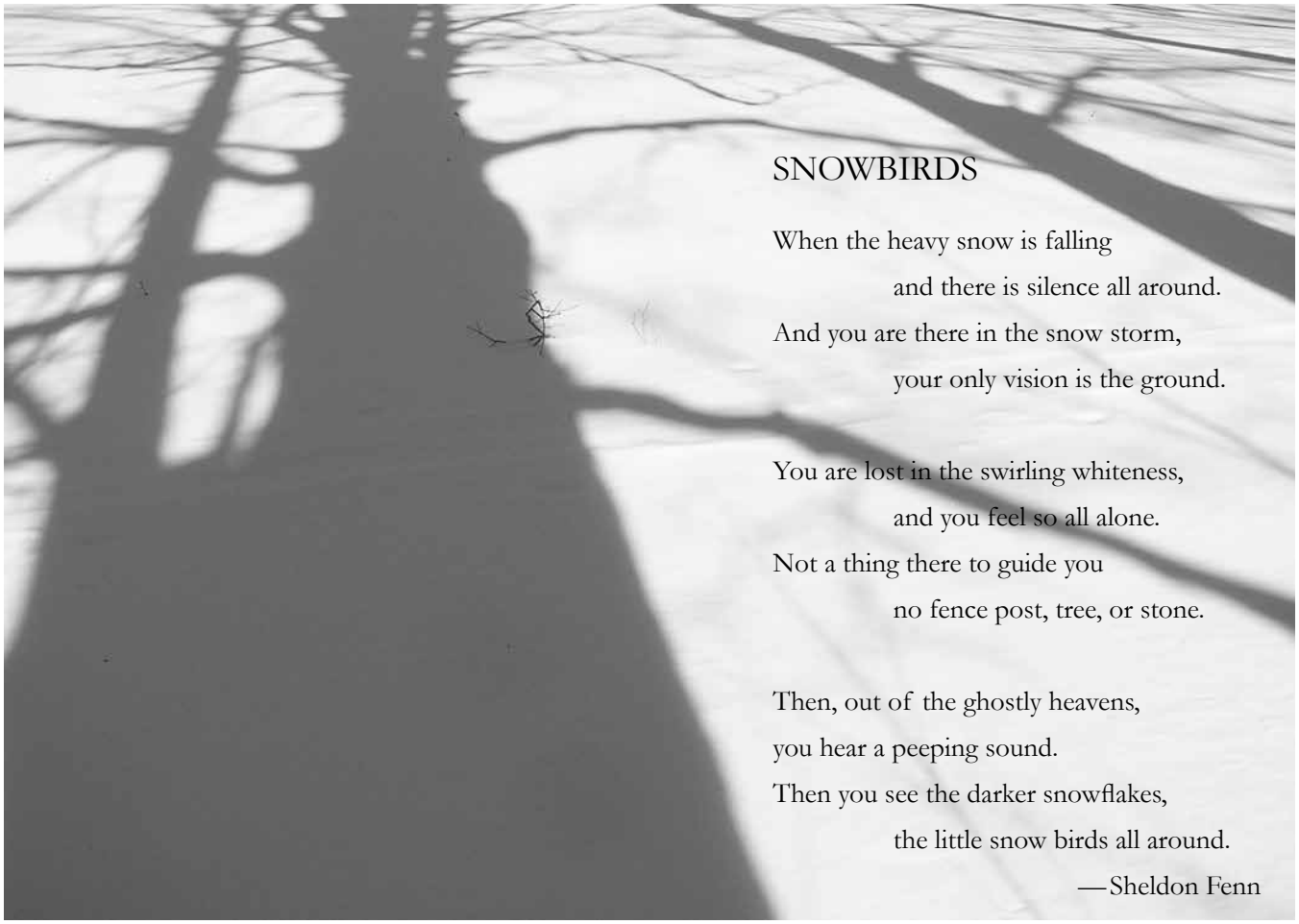
OF PHOEBE, WALKING

As furry little legs flit to and fro,
her steady gait and sweet expression draw
smiles from passersby. Some seem to know
her warmth can cause their woes and chills to thaw.

These moments bring a smile to me as well,
enthralled by the goodwill that she evokes.
Watch us walking! I think that you can tell
she's happy too; a doggie's body "speaks."

Despite that pace, she's actually getting old.
Mostly in the city now, she misses
country sights and scents that she's recalled.
Inside, we keep her warm; give pets and kisses.
Her tempo slows.
She reminisces.

—Ed Schur



SNOWBIRDS

When the heavy snow is falling
and there is silence all around.
And you are there in the snow storm,
your only vision is the ground.

You are lost in the swirling whiteness,
and you feel so all alone.
Not a thing there to guide you
no fence post, tree, or stone.

Then, out of the ghostly heavens,
you hear a peeping sound.
Then you see the darker snowflakes,
the little snow birds all around.

—Sheldon Fenn

Snow Shadows, Stephen Moore

"Snowbirds," from the January, 1994 Monterey News

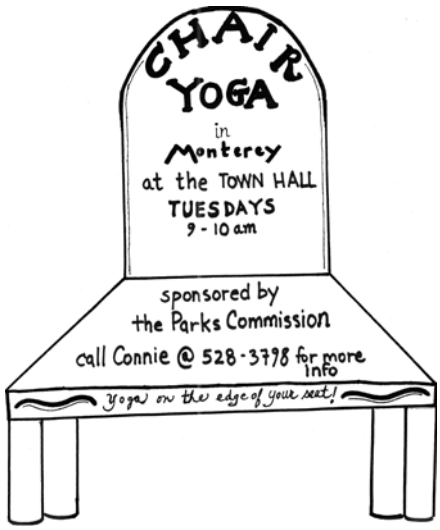
Monterey Cultural Council
2015 Grants Awarded

The Monterey Cultural Council is pleased to announce its FY2015 grant awards totaling $5,450 to help support twenty-nine programs and activities this year. These awards are made possible by using the Massachusetts Cultural Council allocated funds as well as monies from the Town of Monterey. It is always a difficult job when the Monterey Cultural Council receives grant requests from more than fifty-five applicants with requests for over $20,000. The grant applications cover a wide range of programs, which include arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

In addition to funding projects at the Monterey Library for the Summer Reading Program, for the Knox Gallery Artist Talks, Township #1 Day and Internships at the Bidwell House, the Council is sponsoring several musical concerts and workshops here in town by Monterey musicians and artists. The Cultural Council has also funded projects at many Berkshire institutions such as Shakespeare and Company, Mahaiwe Performing Arts, Berkshire Bach Society, Berkshire Pulse, Sculpture Now, Flying Cloud Institute, and the Berkshire Children's Chorus.

We look forward to seeing many of you at these events. We are still accepting ideas for projects to be funded from our allocated town funds and encourage anyone to get in touch with the Monterey Cultural Council.

—Wendy Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com



Steve Weisz

Many thanks to Kit Patten for his six fun, insightful, and helpful years on the Monterey Cultural Council—we'll miss you!

January Contributions

Once again stalwart contributors have remembered the *Monterey News* without solicitation. The paper couldn't exist without so many people helping.

Richard & Louise Skolnik
Judith Kaminstein
Gregory & Christine Fahlund
Isabeth Hardy
Ruth Rosenblatt
Anne Shatas
Fred & Margaret Vorck

Community Potluck Suppers
Next Supper February 18

At the January potluck, Dr. Lisa Nelson spoke forcefully on the topic of America's present addiction to sugar, including its history and production. We are very grateful for her expertise and presentation. As an aside, perhaps it is no coincidence that this was the first potluck where *no one* brought any desserts!

For the February potluck, Dr. Pat Salomon and Connie Wilson have arranged a discussion, "An Inquiry into Positive Aging in Monterey." The featured speaker is Dr. Karen Prestwood, a Lenox geriatrician with special studies in Tibetan Medicine. They also plan to have participation from several of our inspiring elders and our Council on Aging.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, February 18, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

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Cactus Flower
Tender Blooms in Unexpected Places

"Yeah," my friend Jeff said, recalling a childhood memory. "I answered the phone one of the times John Lennon called my father."

Okay, my mind said to me. *Back up. Rewind.* The closest I ever got to John Lennon was living a few blocks from the Dakota in Manhattan while he and Yoko Ono lived there, but being three of eight million people on the same island doesn't really count.

"John Lennon called your father?"

"Yeah. He wanted to ask him something about the cows. So I called my dad and gave him the phone."

"John Lennon had cows?"

"Yeah, he had a farm in upstate New York. My father was an expert in cattle breeding. He went out to work on the farms, and I went with him a lot. I never went to John Lennon's place, though."

Just a little trivia, and also a threshold. As I stepped across that threshold, another bit of miscellany drifted by. During World War II people placed gold stars in the windows of households where family members had lost their lives in battle. Right behind that floated a reference to "those unsung heroes, the gold star teachers." I was a teacher at the time I heard about the WWII gold stars, and one of my former students had just died, so the idea stuck with me.

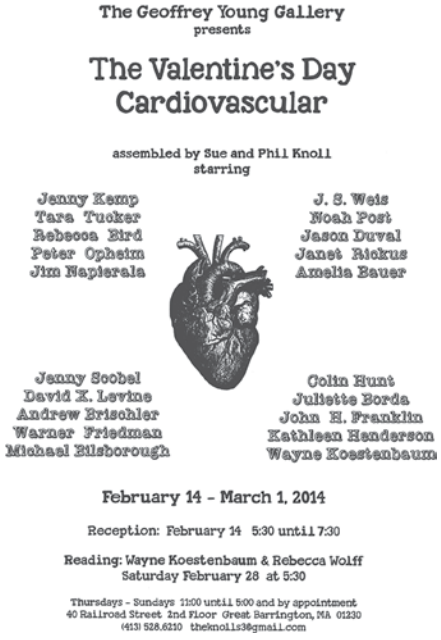
This quilt block is a traditional pattern called Cactus Flower, tender beauty blooming in an arid place.

Now it surfaced again, but this time I was hearing it as a fan of a man so iconic his first and last names were one word. Johnlennon: a man whose songs I can still sing, whose death touched me so deeply that I went to New York and walked past the Dakota just to run my hand along its yellow stone façade as a way to express my grief.

Talking with Jeff, I witnessed both my grief and Jeff's father's loss. I'd lost an icon. Jeff's father had lost someone he actually knew, spoke with, advised. He'd lost an employer and a friend.

Yes, my pain was real: grief is grief. But no one really knows what pain or grief any of the rest of us carries around inside. I hope to keep that in mind, to Let it Be, to speak Words of Love on A Hard Day's Night. Or even to go back a bit further for my source and Try a Little Tenderness.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Young Gallery Events

Please come to the opening at the Geoffrey Young Gallery in Great Barrington on Valentine's Day, February 14, from 5:30 to 7:30.

On February 28, at 5:30 p.m., come hear Wayne Koestenbaum—culture critic, poet, author of several books, and Rebecca Wolff—poet, fiction writer, and creator of *Fence Magazine*, read from their newest books.

These events are free to the public.

—Phil and Sue Knoll

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The Monterey Community Center Has Walls and Windows

Clockwise from top left: Eric Pedersen (in the lift), Mike Banner (looking out from inside), Ed Klausmeyer (on the ladder), and Lanny Lanoue (on the ground) begin installing the critical first SIP wall panel; later that morning they had the first five panels secured in place; within a few short, cold days, they were putting the last of the main house panels onto the south end; the building is nearly tight to the weather, and the future can be envisioned. All photos by Joe Baker.

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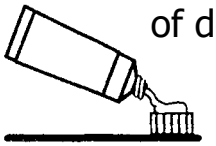

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Route 23 Monterey

Community Center News

It's really happening. The Monterey Community Center is at the point where we can all envision its existence. The recent letter campaign yielded $29,515, including the contributions of generous donors who purchased all twenty-seven windows. During the recent spate of frigid weather, a crew headed by Eric Pedersen, along with Lanny Lanoue and Ed Klausmeyer, and with intrepid FWMH committee members Joe Baker and Michael Banner, got all the wall panels (SIPs) up. The twenty-seven windows have been installed, and the building is beginning to resemble Edith and Marjorie's home again.

Still, there is a lot of work to be done. On the inside, there is the electrical, plumbing, and heating work, installing a kitchenette and bathroom, as well as finished flooring, trim, and painting. On the exterior, there is the siding, casings, trim, and an entry addition. Even with all this work remaining, it is heartening to see the building take shape and the dream of a community center start to become a reality.

In the coming months, there will be lots of opportunities for unskilled labor help to move along the completion of the building. If you would like to contribute a few hours, please send an email to center@ccmonterey.org and you will be contacted at the appropriate time. Financial donations are still very much needed and can be sent to the FWMH at PO Box 302, Monterey, or you can donate through PayPal on our website, fwmh.org. The Wilson McLaughlin House Committee is so grateful to all those who have already so generously contributed.

—Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House

Bidwell House Museum

Two Major Grants Awarded

The Bidwell House Museum announced that the museum has been awarded state grants totaling $60,000 in 2014. The museum, which is listed in the State Register of Historic Places, has received a matching grant of $30,000 from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). This grant will help fund a Historic Structure Report and the plans for roof replacement and accessibility improvements. The museum also received a $30,000 Cultural Facilities Fund grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council toward the actual construction of the roof replacement.

These are the largest grant awards the museum has received to date, underscoring the significance of the museum as a center of education about early Berkshire history for tourists and community members alike.

"The state grants are helping us to address essential building needs," according to Barbara Palmer, executive director of the museum. "The cedar shingle roof is leaking and must be replaced with historically appropriate roofing. The new roof needs to be designed to minimize ice damming and premature aging."

The MHC grant will also help fund the designs for accessibility improvements, as well as an outline of future museum maintenance needs. Palmer explained: "I am particularly excited about accessibility designs. We hope to improve the visitor experience for everyone, with a better entry and comfortable welcome room and rest rooms, without altering the historic exterior.

"It is the museum's wonderful members and supporters in our community that are making this possible," noted Palmer. "The grants are contingent on raising matching funds, and the community is pulling together to make it happen. Our state representative, Smitty Pignatelli, has been invaluable in guiding us through the grant process." Both grants require one-to-one matches, and the museum is more than halfway toward raising them.

Work on the Historic Structure Report began in the fall. The museum has engaged a team of experts led by Steve McAlister of Clark & Green Architects, Inc. of Great Barrington to carry out the study and design work.

The museum plans to proceed with these improvements in three steps: 1. assessment, study, and design this winter; 2. rebuilding of the roof in fall; and 3. pending funding, visitor enhancements and accessibility improvements in the following year.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The museum is a nonprofit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship and enjoyment of the landmark site. It is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. The museum grounds are open daily for hiking and nature watching.

—Bidwell House Museum

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tcoote@simons-rock.edu

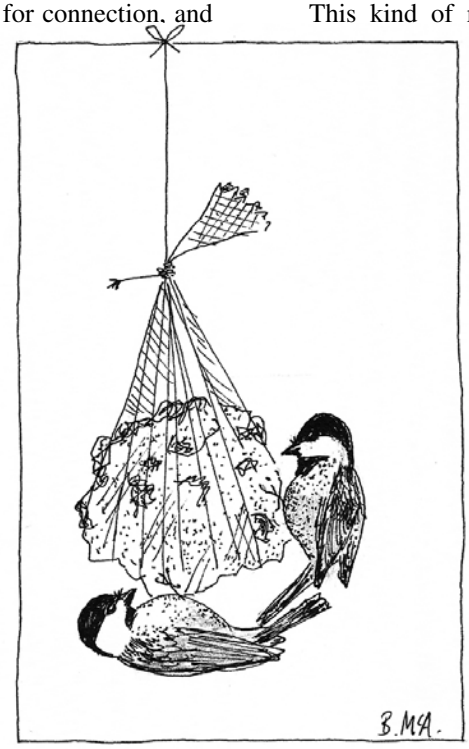
Chickadee Cheerfulness
Verve and Courage

How we folks do love to identify with other creatures, even plants, even rocks. We speak of each other as being steady as a rock, solid as an oak. Mostly we find attributes of human character or appearanc that are positive in our minds: sweet as a rose, busy as a beaver. To a rose, there is not so much personal sweetness, I think. There is reproductive success, thanks to the visit of a "busy" bee, and then this trait passes along to the next generations. These days some nature lovers feel constrained not to describe the critters in human terms, not to "anthropomorphize" wildly the wild. You can still hear it now and then, especially in dramatic words of danger, as in the "viciousness" of some animals, ones with teeth and claws and a snarly look, which, on the face of another person, we would interpret as mean or dangerous. Rightly or wrongly—maybe they just needed to sneeze.

When I look into the old books, I enjoy the unfettered innocence of the writers. Edward Howe Forbush, state ornithologist of Massachusetts a hundred years back, was a scientist and observer, full of numbers and observations. He was also good with words and free with attributions. I haven't yet found *vicious* among them, but of the chickadee he was thrilled, happy, to write that the plumage is "lax and loose," the species a "bird masterpiece beyond all praise," a "blithe woodland sprite," and "the embodiment of cheerfulness, verve, and courage." What license these poets of the science annals enjoyed, and how we might envy them. Here is Dr. Frank M. Chapman writing in the 1914 *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America:*

"On several occasions Chickadees have flown down and perched upon my hand. During the few seconds they remained there I became rigid with the emotion of this novel experience. It was a mark of confidence which seemed to initiate me into the ranks of woodland dwellers."

We are looking for connection, and we always have been. I want to identify with the chickadee, a small body, sparkling and active. If that were me behaving so, I would be full of courage and verve. I would be blithe!



We look out in the orchard and see the blithe spirit working over the rough bark of the trees, ferreting out eggs and larvae of moths and beetles that might one day hatch and gobble up apple leaves, lay eggs in fruit, and send the crop dropping before it got ripe. These little insect animals are not good guys to us and we do not want to identify with them. I doubt we'd go so far as to call them vicious, but the birds that gobble them down are loyal, trustworthy, and brave. They are beneficial. They are the guys we want on our side, the guys we are, ourselves: white hats, good deeds.

One of those early writers estimated that a single chickadee would eat 138,750 eggs of canker moths in the twenty-five days during which the female moth lays eggs in the orchard. In 1898, Professor E. Dwight Sanderson wrote in the magazine *Auk* that the chickadees of Michigan consume eight billion insects per year.

This kind of math is based upon the slaughter of the blithe spirits, in order to analyze stomach contents. This is science, and research is no respecter of individuals. You could call it collateral damage in pursuit of knowledge, that thing we treasure and which can be applied to our crop yields, after all. Once applied, well, we are in business and here come sin and the profit motive. On this subject, that great lover of wildlife Henry Thoreau wrote:

"There are certain current expressions and blasphemous moods of viewing things, as when we say 'he is doing a good business,' more prophane (sic) than cursing and swearing. There is death and sin in such words. Let not the children hear them." (*Journal*, April 21, 1841)

It can only do us good to identify with the dapper chickadee, and since identity goes both ways, let's not worry about any harm coming to the chickadee from our feeling some oneness. We have to be careful not to prophane the sundry creatures of creation by finding them to be "doing a good business," though. Or if we want to see it that way, we have to understand good business to be productive daily foraging, nesting, chick rearing, and passing along abilities through nature and nurture. Good looks and singing are important, too. That witty intellectual, critic, and essayist Clifton Fadiman once

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said this: "Thoreau can get more out of ten minutes with a chickadee than most men from a night with Cleopatra."

I suppose and hope Fadiman meant no disrespect to Cleopatra and to most men. He was wisecracking. The joke, though, is on Fadiman, since odds are he never had the joy of those ten minutes, nor a night with the queen in ancient Egypt. Best he could get was a chuckle over himself, which is doing okay in this day and age.

Winter chickadees are foraging and roosting now in flocks of up to twelve. Sometimes other small birds join them. In spring they'll be pairing off to dig out chambers in decaying punky stumps of pine or birch. Sometimes they take over an old woodpecker nest and line it with plant down, feathers, fur, anything soft. Males and females make the nest together, work together to incubate the eggs and to raise the youngsters. They have several short songs, including "chicka-dee-dee-dee," "spring…soon," and a "peculiar lisping gargling that has a slightly musical quality." (Forbush, 1926)

In 1904 John Burroughs invited some Vassar undergraduates to see a chickadee nest in a tree, to peer in at the bird and the hatchlings. One after another young woman took a turn at the peep hole until finally the birds had had enough and gave off an explosive hissing sound, the adult and the young all at once. The student jumped back, saying the birds had spit at her! Forbush tells us these combined vocal efforts have been likened to the hissing of some huge snake.

Back in the day, Frank Chapman was "rigid with emotion," but any of us can have these adventures, joys, and Fadiman-style chuckles. All thanks to the "bird masterpiece beyond all praise."

—Bonner McAllester

Internet Options Are Good!

For months, Monterey has discussed broadband access and connectivity at length. Fiber Connect LLC is part of the dialogue. We want to be sure we are educating you about who we are and what services we provide.

Fiber Connect is a local business based here in Monterey, headed by Monterey resident Adam Chait. The company started in 2013 after the state's Middle Mile construction project was completed. Fiber Connect is privately funded with a network of talent. Last year we registered as a Regional Service Provider and immediately began working with Axia, the state-contracted operator of the Middle Mile, which is the fiber optic network between the internet and your home or business. We were the first provider to physically expand the state fiber optic infrastructure by connecting businesses and select residential properties over the past year with direct fiber extensions.

The goal of our company is to connect partially served and under-served homes and businesses with broadband access—and to do so at a competitive price point. We are currently in the final stages of engineering, planning, and permitting to start select construction projects, and our goal is to start in our hometown of Monterey. And best of all, we are going to do all of this at no cost or risk to our town.

As a privately funded company, we do not need financial support from the towns in which we are deployed; we only ask for their cooperation. Fiber Connect assumes all of the financial liability and risk. Our preference is to bury our cables in the ground, and we are asking for the cooperation of the town and property owners for utility easements. These easements would dramatically reduce our time to market.

While we could feasibly string our cables on existing utility poles, doing so would require a lengthy permitting process involving the utility companies and is not consistent with our goal of providing reliable broadband service to our neighbors as quickly as possible. We are willing to work together with municipal entities in local towns when beneficial, and we welcome conversation.

Moving forward, we will offer educational Q&A sessions in the following months to answer questions you may have about fiber optic–based data and voice services and to provide education around these services. For information on upcoming dates and times of these educational Q&As please register for our newsletter on our website at bfcma.com to learn more.

—Adam Chait
Founder, Fiber Connect

(In December the Monterey News *included a fact sheet from WiredWest about their proposal to install a town-wide last mile system. Fiber Connect also has a proposal for residents to consider. —Ed.)*

❊

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❊

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Roosevelt Institution

A Decade of Progressive Student Ideas

Ten years ago, a group of college students founded an organization whose mission it was to connect student ideas to the policy making process. Today, the organization boasts over 120 campuses and ten thousand members and has gained a national reputation as being a go-to place for idea sourcing among young people.

I am fortunate to have played a prominent role in the growth of the Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network, originally incorporated as the Roosevelt Institution. I joined Roosevelt in its infancy, as a freshman at Middlebury College in the fall of 2005. After serving as part of the chapter leadership as a sophomore, and returning from my junior year in London, I was asked to be on the senior student staff team as the Northeast Regional Coordinator, supporting about twenty chapters in their daily campus activities. After graduation in 2009, I was brought on as a member of the national team in DC, first as their national network coordinator and then as their director of operations and communication. Along the way, I met and worked with an incredible group of individuals, many of whom I'm so lucky to count as close friends today.

Reflecting on this journey has been an honor and privilege. It's hard to articulate how much the experience of being a "Roosevelter" has meant to me. First, I'm part of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt legacy; the Roosevelt family embraced the creation of the organization and they've applauded our success this past decade. Second, I was just eighteen when I joined the organization, three weeks into my college experience. I know now that Roosevelt helped shaped my values and views of the world in practical, ambitious ways; I believe in a progressive vision of America, but I'm not always an idealist. Roosevelt helped me strengthen my creative problem solving and inspired me to contribute my voice and ideas to the policy process.

Finally, I have more friends from my years with Roosevelt than I do from college. Roosevelt played a tremendous role in my college years.These individuals saw potential in me long before I believed in myself. Their support helped me gain poise and a sense of confidence as I headed out into the world. They valued my work ethnic and my organizational abilities, and urged me to continue working my way up in the organization. I learned what it was like early on to have authority, freedom in the workplace, and a sense of mission-driven work. My suggestions, ideas, and input counted. In sum, I was completely spoiled.

Over the years, the lines between mentors, former bosses, and recent students fell away; we're all a giant family. Today, I mentor students who participate in the summer academy internship program (a paid policy-focused opportunity in four cities each year) and I serve as an alumni editor for the annual "10ideas" series to help students improve their education policy submissions. This past year I've been on a steering committee that is planning a year of festivities to celebrate ten years and to launch our alumni network. I'm glad I can still help support students and stay connected to the network of incredible people; these are individuals I inherently trust and respect a little bit more because we have shared a journey of sorts.

In early December, over two hundred alumni gathered in Washington DC to celebrate Roosevelt's tenth birthday. It is the one DC social event I could attend and never worry about finding people to socialize with, because students from all generations showed up at the party. We got to give ourselves a classy pat on the back for all our hard work building an organization that is only getting bigger and stronger each year. The morning after the party, about thirty alumni and staff, along with about ten current students went to the White House to present their ideas to panels of federal policymakers for the first time. It was a legitimate dream come true for the founders and early members. It was a vindication of all the work and effort, the conferences on a shoestring budget (students once slept on a church floor), the skimping on travel budgets with late night buses, and the constant push for legitimizing student ideas.

I am so proud and humbled to have been such a big part of this organization's history. It was a mutual journey, though, because I grew and gained almost as much as I gave—actually, probably just as much. I can't wait for the next ten years.

—Tarsi Dunlop

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Baby Face

My daughter Deborah recently gave birth to Eva. Family members arrived soon thereafter (one can imagine the prehistoric origins of such in-gatherings of the clan in an effort to determine or confirm the likely father) to offer congratulations and, quite predictably, to go on record with their first impressions. "Who does the infant take after?" Everyone felt obligated to provide an opinion. The subject dominated the conversation. Family features and traits were identified ("she's a good eater") and credit assigned if a consensus emerged. Claims were made, supporting evidence put forward, and contrary opinions advanced ("I don't recognize the hair"). Because heredity involves a fluid genetic stream supplied by an extensive network of individuals, it's possible to range pretty far afield here. Distant relatives barely acknowledged could nevertheless end up in the mix as readily as those close of kin.

Opinions flew fast and furious. Some focused on facial evidence— others relied on body shape. Agreement was not easy to come by. Further complications arose from the fact that in the early weeks the situation was remarkably fluid as the baby's features changed, creating obvious disappointment for some, but also opening the doors for others to stake their claims.

Each encounter with Eva prompted renewed discussion and debate. Some referenced family baby pictures still in their possession to support their contentions. Meanwhile, my daughter and her husband looked on, delighted at the attention their child was receiving while advancing their own, obviously legitimate, claims. Compromises were possible, however, once discussion turned from the infant's overall appearance and focused upon specific features. Concessions were forthcoming from all concerned parties. Some conceded the eyes, but claimed the nose. Others insisted upon the cheeks and bargained away the lips. The hair was a bone of contention, but judgments regarding the chin gained acceptance. Once the conversation expanded to include temperament andsleeping and eating habits, the possibilities for give and take on all sides expanded greatly.

Meanwhile Eva began to cackle and coo, oblivious to the ongoing debate over her genetic inheritance. But we shouldn't be deceived. She was probably taking it all in and perhaps was upset at being used to satisfy the expectations and needs of individual family members. No doubt, in the years to come, she will reject being defined by others and insist upon establishing her own unique look and identity.

—Richard Skolnik

Mudpuppy, See pg. 24

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.

Adult hockey:

Tuesday and Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9.

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.

All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink

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Wildlife in January 2015

January was a month of birds, bobcats, and a mighty amphibian, with the red-bellied woodpeckers at the top of the charts for birds. Carol Ingher was so thrilled by her first sighting of this handsome woodpecker at the end of last month that she did not take one second away from her viewing to go get a camera. Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati have also been visited by red-bellied woodpeckers, and Ed says this is now his favorite bird for this winter. They've had blue jays at their feeder, too, early in January.

On New Marlboro Road, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have had chickadees coming, and maybe a northern shrike in the neighborhood as well. They had a definite sighting of a shrike, and its prey hanging in a quince bush last winter, but it didn't make it into the Wildlife report. We all have to find a meal and for some birds it is another bird. Late in the month the Moore/Jensen household also saw a brightly colored red fox make its way the length of their field.

In the cat department, we learned Bob Rausch saw a wildcat, also known as a bobcat, on New Marlboro Rd., Steve Snyder saw one on Town Hill Rd., and word is just in from Keith O'Brien and Chip Allen that they have seen a big bobcat on Blue Hill Rd.

Here on the east end of Hupi Rd., we have had an otter sliding upstream along the ice on our brook, leaving slide marks in the skift of snow there. One morning about sunrise there were two chickadees visiting the bluebird boxes in the orchard, but we think their interest was mealtime, not bed and babies until later on. They come in little flocks to our apple trees, checking the rough bark for insect eggs.

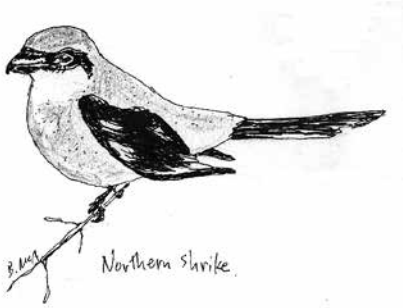
Barred owls have been calling, "huh - huh - huh-hooo-awww," several times this month, and I saw a red-tailed hawk along Tyringham Rd.

Out in the woods there is a fine crop of paper birch seeds that have shaken down on top of the crusty snow, Nature's birdfeeder. The winter larder is rich with acorns, too, and the wild neighbors are finding them easy digging since the snow is barely three inches deep.

Steve Snyder reports a pileated woodpecker. He has also been to Lake Garfield where he saw a mudpuppy under the ice. They can't fly, but in some ways these big creatures are the Peter Pan of salamanders, all their lives looking like giant larval types with their external gills. They never leave the water the way most other amphibians do, and they can be two feet long. (See p. 23.)

Thanks for your sightings!

—Bonner McAllester
bmca@berkshire.net or 528-9385



Ed Salsitz's suet feeder with a blue jay (top) and a red-bellied woodpecker (below). Don't be fooled by "red-bellied"—while these beauties have reddish breasts, their heads are as bright red as you'll find anywhere in the bird world.

Berkshire Botanical Garden
Announces 2015 Winter Lecture

The Berkshire Botanical Garden is pleased to announce its 2015 Winter Lecture, "Stourhead Garden: The Genius of the Place," a talk with Alan Power, Stourhead's head gardener of over ten years. The presentation will take place February 14, at 1 p.m., at Monument Mountain Regional High School.

Stourhead is one of the finest landscape gardens in Europe, and many would argue, in the world. Wrapped in and protected by the rolling hills of the ancient landscapes of Wiltshire, Somerset, and Dorset, Stourhead has evolved over the last three hundred years around a valley originally called Paradise. Before this period, the land was occupied by the Stourton family from 1448 until the early eighteenth century. Lived in, admired, journeyed to, shared, and recorded by millions of people during the centuries, Stourhead deserves the fame and importance it has gained.

Attendees to the lecture will learn about the history of Stourhead, the planning and design that goes into maintaining such an important historic property, as well as Alan's impassioned vision for the future.

Tickets to the winter kecture are $35 for members and $45 for non-members. Seating is limited and reservations are required. After the lecture, Mr. Power will be available for a meet-and-greet reception with light refreshments.

For more information and to reserve tickets, please call Berkshire Botanical Garden at 413-298-3926 or visit berkshirebotanical.org. Proceeds from the winter lecture support Berkshire Botanical Garden's educational programs, which provide hands-on workshops and classes to children and adults year-round.

Grant Opportunities for 2015
Berkshire Taconic Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announces the first round of deadlines for competitive grants in fiscal year 2015. Covering the period from January through March, the winter cycle of deadlines is open to regional nonprofits, students, and schools.

The Green Pastures Fund supports nonprofit organizations or public entities that encourage or preserve small, community-based agricultural ventures. Grants range from $1,000 to $3,000. Applications are due March 1.

For Students

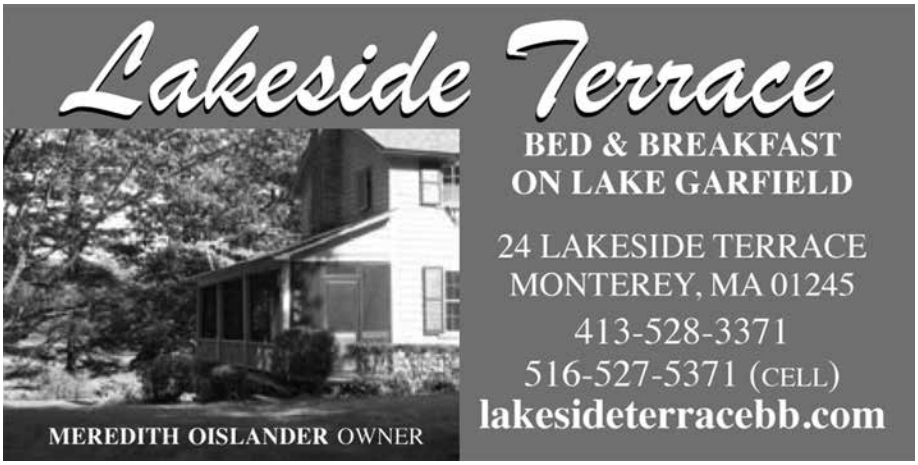
The Alice and Richard Henriquez Memorial Fund / Youth World Awareness Program supports grants to students ages fourteen to tweny-two for international travel and service to help promote international peace and justice. Grants generally range from $500 to $1,500 for individual applicants, and larger grants may be considered for groups. Applications are due February 1.

The Simple Gifts Fund awards grants to young people ages thirteen to twenty-one for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs. Grants range from $200 to $800. Applications are due March 15.

Grant application forms for these and other funds are online and can be found at berkshiretaconic.org/SearchGrants.

For over twenty-seven years, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has distributed over $8 million through grants and scholarships to nonprofits and individuals in the arts and education, health and human services, and environmental protection. We help build stronger communities and help donors make a difference throughout the Taconic region. Berkshire Taconic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity.

You can make a difference. We can help.



Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. We welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Agricultural Commission: First Friday, February 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Board of Health: Monday, February 2, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, February 10, at 6 p.m.

Foot nurse: Thursday, February 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1598).

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, February 12, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Park Commission: Wednesday, February 4, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, February 12 and 26 at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda

Select Board meetings: Wednesday, February 4, at 4 p.m, Monday, February 23 at 8:30 a.m. (administrative business from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.) and February 9 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda

Office/Town Hall Closings

- Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16, for President's Day.
- Administrative Assistant's office will be closed February 17 - 20.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend calling ahead.

Question of the Month

(This is intended to be an informal question to develop discussion and get a feel of where residents stand on issues and will represent only a portion of any final decisions made.)

We have a very uneven system of volunteerism in Monterey. Some boards and commissions are paid a stipend and some are made up entirely of volunteers. Would you be in favor of instituting small stipends to boards and commissions (such as the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, etc.), which are currently comprised of volunteers? To answer, please go to our homepage and click on the flashing banner, send mail to P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or email admin@montereyma.gov

Last month's question asked "Would you support a redesign of the current transfer station which will cost approximately $200,000 to construct plus additional monies each year to man it and maintain it?"

Forty-seven people responded as of press time with 20% in favor and 80% opposed.

Other News

We are continuing to work on preparing the annual budget and capital purchases for FY16, which will be presented to voters at the May 2nd annual town meeting.

We will begin diligently assessing the FY16 budget requests that have come in through March and we will continue to do our best over the next two months to keep you informed on the budgeting process through the monthly Select Board Corner articles, our weekly minutes, and the weekly e-updates.

Special Town Meeting

A special town meeting has been set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, at the firehouse.

As of press time there are six articles for voters to consider. One article will concern the bond the SBRSD is seeking for roof and boiler replacement at the Mt. Everett schools, and there will be an informational meeting regarding this at the library on February 21, at 10 a.m.

Another article will request the town's permission to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 164 §134 to use the entire town's electricity buying power to leverage lower rates from suppliers.

Two of the articles will consist of requesting to transfer $1,000 from free cash to the treasurer's salary and $4,000 to the Parks Commission.

The remaining two articles will be requests to raise and appropriate $15,000 to help with the elimination of milfoil in Lake Garfield and $23,175 to complete Jaime's Court.

Hard copies of the warrant will be mailed out to each registered voter household sometime in the middle of February and will be available online the first week in February.

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
www.montereyma.gov

Burning Permits in Monterey

This year the Monterey Fire Department is using an online application for burning permits. They will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. when weather conditions allow. Fires are to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. Open burning season is from January 15, 2014, to May 1, 2014.

To obtain a permit or to read the regulations, go to the website ebcburnpermits.com. If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-443-7220 ext. 117 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings. See p. 26.

Every Tuesday. except Feb. 10: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Tuesdays, February 3 and 17: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Friday, February 6, through March 21: *The Magical Ravine off Wallace Hall Road: Watercolors by Alan Roland.* Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 10.

Saturday, February 7: Opening reception, *The Magical Ravine off Wallace Hall Road.* 6-7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 10.

Wednesday, February 11: Council on Aging "Meet and Greet," 10 a.m., Town Hall meeting room.

Thursday, February 12:

Council on Aging, foot care clinic, 9-11:30 a.m., Town Hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown at 518-1598 for an appointment.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Dept.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Dept. (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

also on Thursday, February 12:

Free Health Promotion Program and blood pressure check with VNA, 2-3 p.m., Town Hall meeting room.

Tuesday, February 17: *Monterey News* deadline.

Wednesday, February 18: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Monterey Fellowship Hall. Dr. Karen Prestwood, a Lenox geriatrician, "An Inquiry into Positive Aging in Monterey." See p.16.

Saturday, February 21:

Informational Meeting, SBRSD roof and boiler project. 10 a.m., Monterey Library. See pgs. 4-5.

Lenox Contradance, Live music by Alan Thompson and friends, calling by Fern Bradley, 8:30-11:30 dance. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, Contact 413-528-4007.

Sunday, February 22: Free use of entire Berkshire South Community Center for Monterey residents. For more information, call 528-2811.

Monday, February 23: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *Time Was Soft There: A Paris Sojourn at Shakespeare & Co.* by Jeremy Mercer. See p.10.

Thursday, February 26: Special Town Meeting to vote on the school bond, 7 p.m., at firehouse. See p.26.

Saturday, February 28: Easy Ridin' Papas, 7:30 p.m., Meetinghouse. See p. 5.

Monterey News

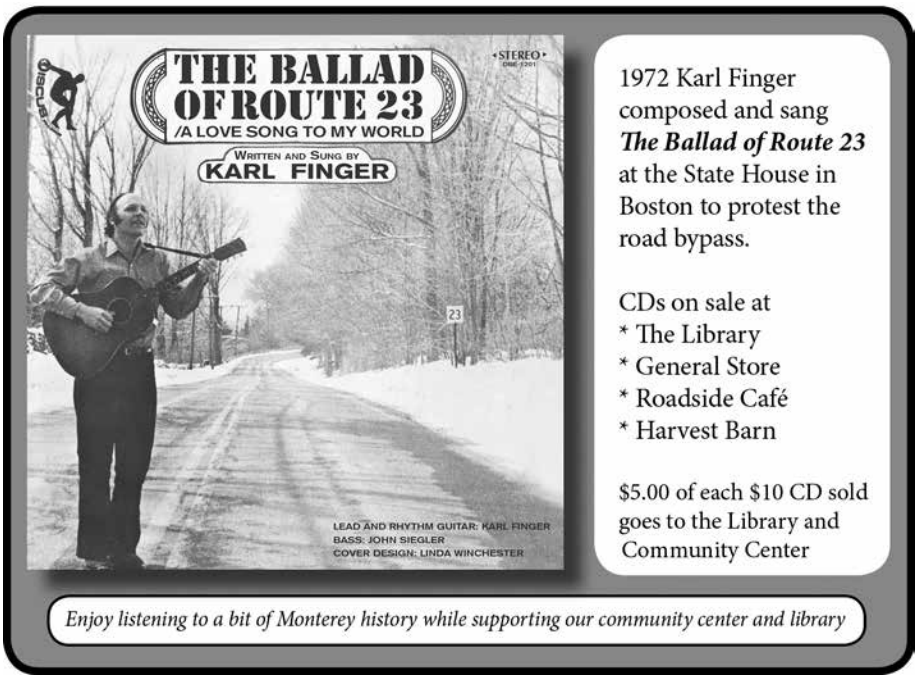
The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Photos, Poems, and Artwork

The *Monterey News* is more than just news stories and notices of goings-on. It is enlivned by what enlivens each of us—at least the print versions. The *News* has a long history of publishing photos from around Monterey, at all times of the year, in both large and small detail. Poems that help us understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us are paths between us. Artwork, whether it's little scribbles to fill the small moments and spaces or larger illustrations, are another way of helping all of us see.

Please keep the *Monterey News* in mind as a way to share some of your creative endeavors with people who live nearby, or further away but hold Monterey dear.

—Editor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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pps. 16, 17, 19, 25; George Emmons, p. 12;
Bonner McAllester, pps. 23, 24.

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